

JANUARY-MARCH 2012

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Information on upcoming 150th Anniversary Events.
- A special message from our superintendent.
- Information from both our Resource Management and Maintenance divisions.
- Find information on purchasing gifts in our gift shop.

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# The Sentry

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

## CANNONEER'S CORNER

Another year has gone and now we look to an exciting sesquicentennial year for Pea Ridge National Military Park in 2012. In 2011 the park saw a 16 percent increase in visitation with over 128,000 visitors. Even with budget constraints the park was able to provide 74 black powder programs to over 5,600 visitors and students. The park was fortunate to have local living history groups provide the lion share of these programs for the battle anniversary and throughout the year. Special thanks to the 24<sup>th</sup> Missouri, 3<sup>rd</sup> Louisiana, Missouri State Guard, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Illinois Light

Artillery for their exemplary work this year.



The sesquicentennial is almost upon us and, heaven forbid I am still working here for the bicentennial, for most of us will be a living history high water mark at Pea Ridge. Events will take place on March 10-11, 2012 here in the park and will include infan-

try, artillery, and for the first time in years, cavalry units. I will also be writing new living history standards in 2012. As we all know black powder is a dangerous substance when not handled or used properly and I would personally like to thank all of you for achieving another year of no injuries.

Submitted by Troy Banzhaf,  
Chief of Interpretation

## 'SUPER' THOUGHTS WITH JOHN SCOTT

I for one find it much easier to say 150<sup>th</sup> than Sesquicentennial, however, my mouth's desire for ease of pronunciation does a poor job of articulating the importance of the affair so I have trained myself to say Sesquicentennial.

To begin this process I spent some time trying to figure the word Sesquicentennial out. I discovered on [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com), that "sesqui" means one and a half. It comes from "semis" (a half) plus "-que" (and), therefore, a half and one, or one and a half,

times "cent" (100) is one hundred fifty or sesquicentennial. That explained everything, I think?

Regardless of whether you want to call it sesquicentennial or 150<sup>th</sup> there will be a lot of activities in the National Park Service, Pea Ridge National Military Park and Northwest Arkansas in 2012 associated with it.

As the American Civil War was a defining event in our nation's history. The National Park Service is commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War from 2011 to 2015 with the overlaying them being Civil War

to Civil Rights. You may find additional information at the following web page: <http://www.nps.gov/features/waso/cw150th/>

Pea Ridge National Military Park in association with our partners The Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation and Eastern National will be hosting a number of events through the year starting in March with a concert by Bobby Horton the well known musician, music historian and storytelling who set the score for Ken Burns' *Civil War* series and a first ever luminary event.

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# SOLDIER STORIES



Battle flag of the  
Third Iowa Cavalry.

Many soldiers that fought in the Civil War kept diaries of their experiences. The following is an excerpt from Henry Dysart's journal. Dysart was a private in the 3rd Iowa Cavalry and fought under Colonel Cyrus Bussey.

"Benton Barracks, January 1st, 1862. "Time flies" and it is indeed true that it "waits for no man". Today We may be at home in peace, tomorrow at war, to-day happy, to-morrow

sad, to-day rich tomorrow poor. As Time revolves, new eras open up marked sometimes with dark events. The past is open to view but the future is always uncertain, sometime bright sometimes dark. This first day of January 1862 finds Me about entering upon a year which is likely to be very different from last in its events, wherefore from to day I shall endeavor to keep a record in my Own style giving each day a representation believing that time spent in this

way will not be lost but will be to My improvement, and pleasant to turn back too in the future."

Friday February 28, 1862

"This time last year I had no thought that I should ever pass a night under such circumstances, so far from home as last and every night now is spent. After marching all day over Arkansas mountains and rocks it is pleasant to spend and Arkansas night in an Ar-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## News From The Trenches

As we move into the winter months the maintenance division is working towards completion on a number of projects. The painting of the visitor center took place this summer but the louvers were rebuilt and replaced earlier this month completing that project. The winter months used to mean a slower calmer pace for the staff a time to get caught up with the tasks that took the back burner through the busy season. Now, it simply means a different kind of busy instead of mowing, painting and rebuilding the tasks become planning, performing preventive maintenance, and developing projects for the future. We have been working on a Sustainability Program in partnership with NW Arkansas Community College, Benton County Solid Waste and our Foundation. As most of you know we now have recycling trailers located within the park for our use as well as the local community. These are on loan from Benton County Solid Waste and are serviced at no cost to the park by them. This alone has reduced the cost of solid waste disposal for the park. We have a metal container that is open for use by the park employees to dispose the metal waste the

funds generated by selling these metals are then sent to our foundation. The hope is to generate enough funds to sustain our recycling program plus provide the funds for other project needs within the park. Although the whole maintenance division is involved in the project, Mr. Aaron Artripe is serving as the lead on this project. Other news from the division, we will be losing Mr. Matt Lee at this year's end. Mr. Matt has provided the park with the much need custodial duties through the summer season. He will be continuing his education at NWAC. Help me by wishing Matt all the best for his future and thanking him for the service he has provided. You will be missed Matt. We will also be looking to fill this position in the early spring. This position will serve as the custodian on a permanent base. The agency has set aside certain positions as a targeted positions for veterans this being one of

*(Continued on page 6)*

### THE SENTRY

Pea Ridge NMP  
Visitor Center



## VIP NEWS

Do you enjoy talking to people? Working on trails? Birding? Do you want to share your time and talents with others? Then the VIP program may be perfect for you. The Volunteers-in-Parks program provides parks with thousands of hours of volunteer help and in turn provides volunteers the opportunity to learn, grow, and share their expertise with others. In 2011, Pea Ridge had 481 regular and special event VIP's that gave the

**Dave Lewis,**  
volunteer



park 6,601 hours of their time at an estimated \$132,020 worth of work!

Over the past several years VIP's at Pea Ridge have cleaned trails, opened historic roads, built 14 miles of split rail fence, greeted visitors in the visitor center, provided tours, and much more. The park is currently looking for those individuals interested in becoming a member of the park artillery crew. This 8-10 person crew will provide cannon firing demonstrations here at the park. It involves wearing wool uniforms, is loud and strenuous, but you get to fire a cannon!

*(Continued on page 6)*

"A visit inspires love of country; begets contentment; engenders pride of possession; contains the antidote for national restlessness...He is a better citizen with a keener appreciation of the privilege of living here who has toured the national parks."

Stephen T. Mather,  
NPS Director  
1917-1929

## PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK FOUNDATION

Pea Ridge National Military Park Foundation is partnering with Pea Ridge National Military Park to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Pea Ridge on March 9-11, 2012. This historic event will kick-off on March 9<sup>th</sup> on the Bentonville Downtown Square with a cavalry re-enactment on the actual site where the Union and Confederate Armies met in March 1862 before the Battle of Pea Ridge. That evening, Bobby Hor-

ton will perform in concert "Songs and Stories of the Civil War" at the Bentonville Shewmaker Center. All other events will take place March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at Pea Ridge National Military Park and include soldier encampments, battlefield talks and guided hikes, artillery and rifle firing demonstrations, a battlefield luminary and memorial service. The kick-off is free to the public, but the concert is a ticketed event. All park events will cost the

regular park admission of \$5 per adult or \$10 per vehicle.

For questions, concert tickets or more information, contact the park at 479-451-8122, visit us at [www.pearidgefoundation.com](http://www.pearidgefoundation.com) and/or like us on Facebook.

## SINGING SEAMSTRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Happy New Year! I hope that you all are well and ready for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle! Now, a friendly reminder that when dressing in living history clothing, in colder weather, make sure you have those winter bonnets, hats, gloves, mitts, jackets, shawls, boots,

heavy stockings, petticoats, and handkerchiefs dusted off and aired out. Pre-soak those wooden canteens, oil your leathers and guns! We all want to look our best or as some soldiers would rather say 'weathered'. Also, remember that just because it is winter, you can still get sunburned and dehydrated, so use that sunscreen and start drinking that water. Ladies, I know

I for one, want to keep my pearly complexion! Wind, rain, sleet, snow, sun or clouds, the anniversary will happen. I hope to see you on the battlefield!

Sirena Evans, Park Guide



**Park Guide, Sirena Evans**

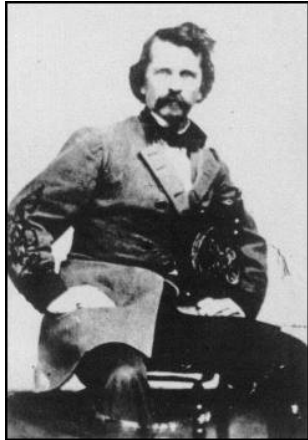
# Resource Management

The Resource Management Division's primary focus is the restoration and preservation of the 1862 landscape pursuant to the park's General Management Plan. As such, all activities are directed toward achieving this goal. Though not inclusive, some of the activities, on-going and planned, dependent upon budgetary considerations yet to be realized for 2012, include the following.

- Wildland Urban Interface project
- Cultural Landscape Report
- Exotic Plant Management
- Glade study
- Small Mammal inventory
- Youth Conservation Corps projects
- Partnership and Boy Scout projects
- Prescribed Fire projects
- Prairie restoration
- Acquisition of Andy Thomas' paintings

A holistic approach is being taken such that aspects of all projects are incorporated with each other in

(Continued on page 7)



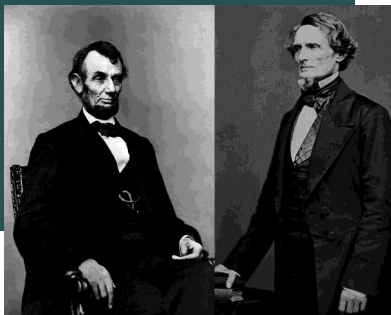
Confederate commander Major General  
Earl van Dorn

## Presidential Trivia

Abraham Lincoln had four brothers-in-law, all of whom fought for the Confederacy.

After the Civil War, Jefferson Davis was imprisoned in Fort Monroe for two years. He lost his U.S. citizenship and died a man without a country.

President Jimmy Carter restored Davis' citizenship in 1976.



## Civil War IQ

Test your knowledge of general Civil War history, facts and figures. Answers can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

1. About how many rounds of ammunition were fired by artillery at Gettysburg?

- ☐ 100,000 rounds  
☐ 55,000 rounds  
☐ 25,000 rounds

2. What is an abatis?

- ☐ Chest-high fortification made of dirt and wood  
☐ Steeply sloped earthen ridge topped by a parapet  
☐ Fortification made from trees cut so that the branches face the enemy

3. The Civil War cost the Union \$2,500 a day in 1860. How much did the war cost in 1865?

- ☐ \$8 million  
☐ \$6 million  
☐ \$4 million

4. At the start of the Civil War, what percentage of Southerners owned slaves?

- ☐ Less than 10%  
☐ 30%  
☐ 70%

5. What was the name of Robert E. Lee's famous horse?

- ☐ Traveler  
☐ Duke  
☐ Vernon

6. Of the over 200,000 African Americans serving in the Union military, how many were awarded the Medal of Honor?

- ☐ 24  
☐ 16  
☐ 8

7. What percentage of Civil War generals wore beards?

- ☐ 23%  
☐ 67%  
☐ 85%

Trivia:

One cannon could shoot a shell as far as 3,000 yards!

The Civil War was the 1st "modern" war to use technologies such as: telegraphy, photography, balloon observation, trenches, wire entanglements, repeating rifles, breech/padding rifles.

The first flag to represent the Confederacy was the Bonnie Blue flag, although it was never officially adopted.

Kate W. Howe enlisted in the Union army as "Tom" Smith, a drummer boy." She was discovered when she was wounded at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee!

The *Alabama* and the *Florida* were two of the most infamous Confederate raiding ships. Between them, they sank a total of 102 Union ships.

National Park Service





# Shop Talk

Eastern National is a proud supporter of Pea Ridge National Military Park.



How are you showing your support for Pea Ridge National Military Park? Our park's store has many wearable items, such as pins, patches, t-shirts and more! And did you know that by purchasing

## Graphic for the new 150th Anniversary T-Shirt

items from our park's store, you are also helping the park to finance museum exhibits, educational programs and special events? So, if you're searching for a way you can give back to Pea Ridge National Military Park and at the same time show your support, look no further and come visit us today at the park, or online at [www.eParks.com!](http://www.eParks.com!)



Pea Ridge National Military Park  
Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Commemorative Patch  
\$5.95

*"...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."*  
NPS Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.

## Funnies

Editorial Cartoon by  
Mike Luckovich



## UPCOMING EVENTS

The most important event of the next few months is the Sesquicentennial coming up in March. Pea Ridge National Military Park will be hosting events the weekend of March 9-11, 2012 in commemoration of the battle. More information will be available on the parks website under the Park Events tab and updated information will also be available on the parks Facebook

page as the date draws near. Any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions can be directed to Troy Banzhaf, Chief of Interpretation.



A cannon at dawn

## VIP News



**Reenactors at the 149th  
Battle Anniversary event**

*(Continued from page 3)*

You must be 16 years old or older. If interested in this or other opportunities, a VIP form is available on our website or by calling the park to set up an appointment.

Troy Banzhaf, Chief of Interpretation

*"I charged the battlements  
of Vicksburg,  
climbed...Lookout  
Mountain and [drove] the  
Confederates from the  
almost impregnable  
position on Missionary  
Ridge...but in all my army  
experience I did not see  
any fighting that  
compared with...Elkhorn  
Tavern."*

*Jacob Platt, sergeant, 9th  
Iowa Infantry Regiment*

## Soldier Stories

*(Continued from page 2)*

kansas thicket as last night was spent with an Arkansas rock for a pillow and an Arkansas sky for a covering. We surrounded and entered FAYettville again this morning at sunrise but found not enemy, although it had been occupied by the rebels again yesterday. They took the old gentleman who furnished the Union flag on last Sunday prisoner. Many of the citizens who

fled through fear have returned, some with their negroes. We returned to camp where was waiting a package of letters for us." Sugar Creek, Arkansas

## News From The Trenches

*(Continued from page 2)*

them, so if you know of any veterans interested in employment with the National Park Service please make sure they know of this upcoming opportunity. The position will be advertized through USAJOBS. Mr. Dean Pippin has been busy conducting our Annual Condition Assessments these Assessments provide us

with the information needed to develop maintenance projects for the next several years. This is the process we must perform to compete for funding to get those walls painted, carpet replaced or buildings built. So, if you see Mr. Dean walking around with a clip board and a tape measure he's not "making a list and checking it twice" he is doing inspections. If there is something

you would like to see repaired, changed, updated or maintained in some way let Dean know. As always, we are civil servants that wish to serve our park its resources, employees, visitors and our nation. So if there is anything you know of that will help us serve you better please let me know. Because "Together We Can"!

Sheri Nodine, Facilities Manager

# Resource Management

(Continued from page 4)

order to realize a maximum benefit/result thereby achieving significant aspects of the divisions, and parks, primary goal.

Four projects currently underway include the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) project, Boy Scout projects, Partnership projects, and acquisition of several Andy Thomas' paintings.

The Wildland Urban Interface project consists of restoring the wood lot by removing cedar and black locust trees, thinning an additional 76 acres of cedar throughout the

park, and maintaining a 40 wide fire control line along the park's northern boundary. Cedar trees, although native, are invasive and currently make up 25% of the park's landmass as compared to historical accounts, circa 1862, of less than 1%.

Multiple groups of Boy Scouts have worked on several different occasions since October and have removed several hundreds of pounds of exotic thistle plants by hand. This, in and of itself, will save the park several thousand dollars and will significantly augment the park's Exotic Plant Management activities in restoring the landscape. There are several other projects prepared for future Boy Scout groups.

In addition to the WUI contract, park staff has cut several cedar trees for restoration purposes. The Arkansas Game and Fish and Corps of Engineers, through an on-going partnership, have utilized these trees to create fish habitat at Beaver Lake.

Since June 2011, the park has purchased two of Andy Thomas' paintings, "A Confederate Sunset" and "City of Soldiers." Two additional paintings, "Not Another Bull Run" and "The Enemy is Behind Us!" are scheduled to be purchased by the end of January.

Kevin Eads, Integrated Resource Manager

## Why No Reenactment?

Wondering why Pea Ridge National Military Park is NOT putting on a reenactment of the battle for the 150th anniversary? While the park will be hosting Living History demonstrations of historic weapons, which will include cannon firings, no large scale battle reenactment, where men pretend to fight, will take place on park property.

There are three reasons why national parks do not allow battle reenactments, they include visitor and demonstrator safety, resource protection and respect for the soldiers who fought and died on what is now national park land.

Living History programs are offered at several times throughout the year. Check the

parks website or Facebook page for more information.

If you would like to know more about National Park Service policies regarding reenactments on national parks, please visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZID\\_vD7eZ0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZID_vD7eZ0)

## Super Thoughts

(Continued from page 1)

The Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission has set the theme for 2012 in Northwest Arkansas to be "**A Divided Arkansas**" - War came to Arkansas in 1862 as Union armies invaded the northwest portion of the state and Confederate leaders authorized formation of bands of guerrilla fighters to oppose them. Families were split as members chose allegiance to the Union or the Confederacy while other Arkansawyers simply tried to stay out of it. It became apparent that every community in the state would be affected by

the war. A Civil War in Northwest Arkansas Podcast Contest, in which students can submit audio podcasts about the Civil War in our region, is being held. Call (479) 750-8165 or email [sy-  
oung@springdaleark.gov](mailto:syoung@springdaleark.gov) for more information.

Stay in touch as further issues of the Sentinal and the parks web page will keep you up to date on the scheduled events.

When I was looking up stuff on Sesquicentennial I also found the word for 175<sup>th</sup> which comes next. The word is Septuquintaquingcentennial – and I thought Sesquicentennial was hard to say!



**John Scott, Superintendent  
Pea Ridge National Military Park**



## National Park Service

Pea Ridge National Military Park  
15930 East Hwy. 62  
Garfield, AR 72732  
Phone: 479-451-8122  
Fax: 479-451-0219  
Website: [www.nps.gov/peri](http://www.nps.gov/peri)

## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

### Civil War IQ Answer Key

- Question 1: 55,000 rounds  
Question 2: Fortification made from trees cut so that the branches face the enemy  
Question 3: \$4 million  
Question 4: Less than 10%  
Question 5: Traveler  
Question 6: 16  
Question 7: 67%

BECOME A JUNIOR  
RANGER TODAY



FYI: Dial 711 for Relay Service- 711 is a telephone service that connects standard (voice) telephone users who are deaf, hard of hearing and/or who have speech disabilities and use text phones. Service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Local calls are free and long distance calls are billed to the costumer by their long distance provider. For more information, contact your local telephone service provider.

Remember, in an emergency, **CALL 911**. 711 is NOT an emergency services number.

## SAFETY TIPS

Taking preventive action is your best defense against having to deal with extreme cold-weather conditions. By preparing your home and car in advance for winter emergencies, and by observing safety precautions during times of extremely cold weather, you can reduce the risk of weather-related problems. Here are some steps you can take to help you do this:

### Prepare your home for winter weather:

- Listen to weather forecasts.
- Check your emergency supplies.
- Have your chimney or flue inspected each year.
- Install a smoke detector and a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector. Test the batteries each month, and replace them twice a year.
- Weatherproof your home.

- Bring your pets indoors during the winter.

### Prepare your car for winter weather:

- Avoid dangerous winter travel problems by planning ahead.
- Have maintenance service on your vehicle as recommended.
- Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Be sure to check the following on your vehicle before the storm hits:
  - Antifreeze
  - Heater
  - Brakes/Brake fluid
  - Ignition
  - Emergency flashers
  - Exhaust
  - Tires (air pressure and wear)
  - Fuel/Oil/

Defroster  
Battery  
Radiator

### Outdoor Safety:

- Dress warmly and stay dry.
- Wear a hat, scarf, and gloves.
- Avoid frostbite.
- If you have to do heavy outdoor chores, dress warmly and work slowly.
- Stay hydrated. Keep in mind that dehydration can happen in cold weather too.
- Avoid walking on ice or getting wet.
- Notify friends and family where you will be before you go hiking, camping, or skiing.
- Avoid traveling on ice-covered roads, overpasses, and bridges if at all possible.
- If you are stranded, it is safest to stay in